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# Livestock and Meat Situation

Economic Research
Service

U.S. Department of
Agriculture

LMS-216
SUPPL.

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Agricultural Outlook
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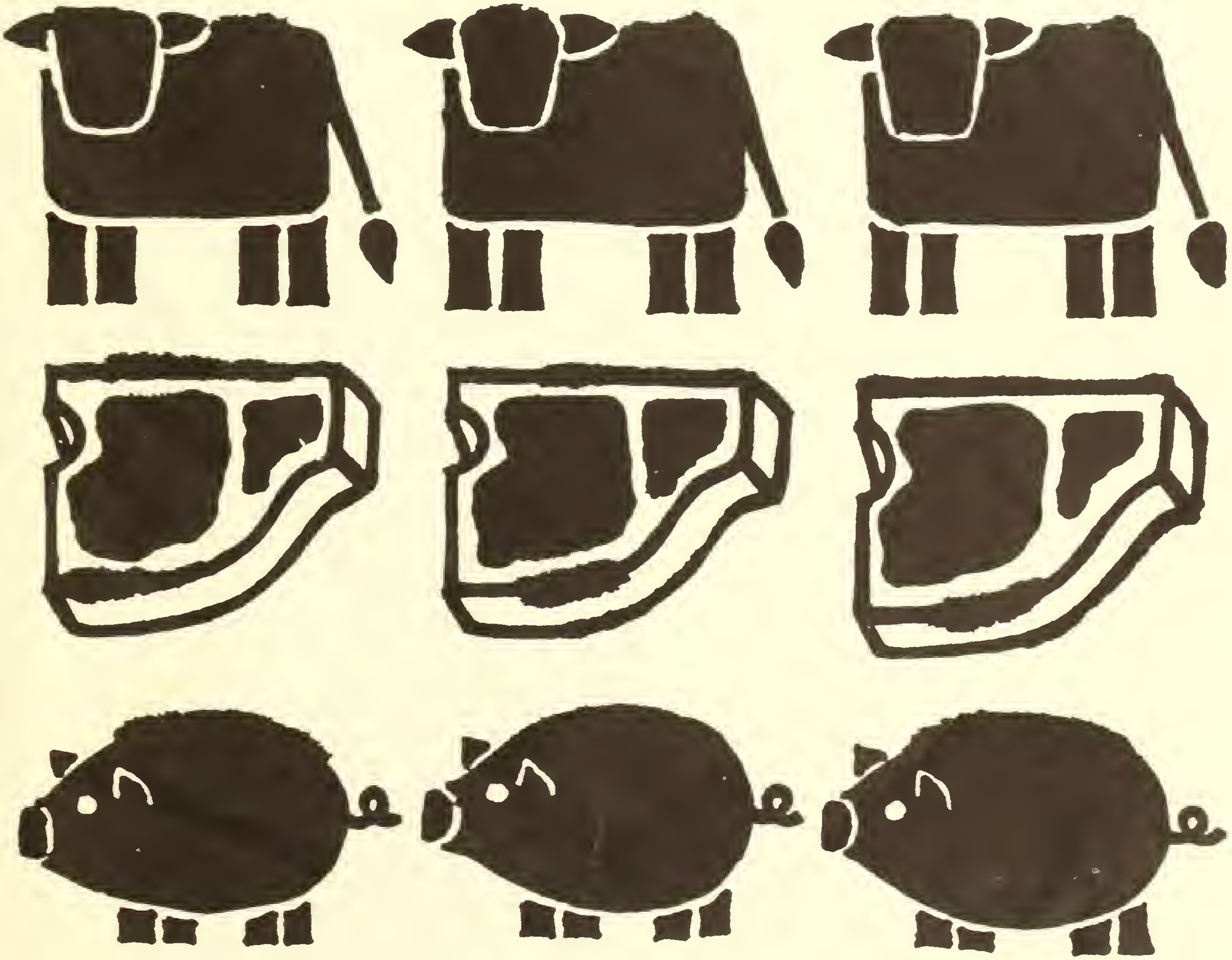

## OBSERVATIONS ON THE BEEF GRADE CHANGE OF 1976

Kenneth E. Nelson

### Summary

Research and subjective industry opinion following the USDA beef grade change in February 1976 indicate that effects on consumers and the industry were minor, generally positive, and consistent with the objectives of the change. Some disruptions have occurred, and a few firms have found it necessary to significantly change their product lines or buying and selling procedures.

### Background

On September 10, 1974, significant changes in official beef grade standards were proposed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. First, conformation was eliminated as a grading factor. This was expected to increase the proportion of carcasses grading Choice. Second, the required degree of marbling to qualify a carcass for the Prime and Choice grades were reduced for all but the youngest cattle. This was expected to increase the proportion of carcasses grading Choice and Prime from a given population or reduce the feeding necessary to qualify an animal for the Prime or Choice grade. Third, the amount of marbling required to qualify a carcass for the Good grade was increased for young cattle and decreased for older cattle. In addition, the maximum age allowed for cattle grading Good was reduced. Together, these changes were expected to reduce the proportion of carcasses grading Good from a given population. Last, it was specified that all beef carcasses and cuts graded by USDA must be identified for both quality and yield grade. Previously, carcasses and cuts could be identified for either quality, yield, or both.

The Department's objective in making these changes was to improve the accuracy of the grades for measuring factors associated with eating characteristics and to provide an improved identification for reflecting carcass values.

A ninety-day period for comments from interested parties followed the September 10 announcement. The comments were evaluated, and in early March 1975 the USDA announced the new standards and procedures would go into effect on April 14. However, a coalition of independent packers and consumer advocate groups secured a court injunction and blocked enactment of the proposed changes. The injunction was set aside in response to a USDA appeal in November 1975. On January 13, 1976, the USDA announced the new standards would go into effect on February 23. Efforts to secure a second court injunction were denied and the new procedures were implemented. The new standards have been in force for a year and a half and some objective and subjective appraisals of the effects of the change can be reported.

Several factors concerning the grade change should be kept in mind. It occurred at the peak of the cattle cycle, per capita beef consumption was at a record high, feed costs were high and slaughter prices were low. Also, some concern was voiced about the morality of feeding cattle instead of people. It is easy to ascribe the observations made to the beef grade change when in fact they were due partially or completely to the market environment at the time.

### Objective Evaluations

The grade change caused a redistribution of beef among the various grades, reducing the quantity graded Good and increasing the quantities graded Choice and Prime. One study (Abraham) revealed the proportion of fed steer and heifer carcasses falling within each grade when the same carcasses were graded under both old and new standards. The sample carcasses were drawn between November 1973 and October

1974. The changes in percentage points for each grade as a result of moving from old to new standards were: Prime +2.1, Choice +13.9, Good -18.6, Standard +2.5, and Utility +0.15.

A comparison of AMS data shows the proportion of graded beef tonnage falling into grade categories during a four week period before the grade change (January 1976), a four-week period immediately following the grade change (March 1976), and a recent four-week period (June 1977).

| Grade | Jan. 1976 | Mar. 1976 | June 1977 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Percent | | |
| Prime.... | 4.9 | 8.5 | 9.1 |
| Choice... | 75.3 | 80.3 | 85.0 |
| Good..... | 12.3 | 7.1 | 4.8 |
| Standard. | .7 | .5 | .2 |
| Other.... | 6.8 | 3.6 | .9 |

Many factors other than the grade change contribute to changes in the proportion of beef falling into each grade. Some of these are average slaughter weights, proportion of total slaughter made up of nonfed steers and heifers, proportion made up of all steers and heifers, proportion made up of cows, and the proportion of total slaughter that is graded. Following the grade change many of the factors moved in directions contributing to increases in beef grading Choice. An ERS study (Nelson, 1977) statistically isolated the changes in grade consist owing to the grade change after allowing for the other factors. Based on percentages of beef graded, the resulting redistribution estimated for the first eight months following the grade changes were: Prime +3.89 points; Choice +2.41 points; Good -6.28 points; other Grades -0.03 points.

Further demand analysis in the ERS study led to three conclusions concerning the eight-month period following the grade change compared to previous monthly data. First, there was a widening of premiums and discounts associated with carcass yield grades. This indicates improved pricing accuracy for beef carcasses. Second, there was no statistically significant shift in demand schedule for Choice beef, indicating that beef buyers had not decreased (or increased) their satisfaction with the new Choice grade. Third, the study found negligible change (-.0008 cents/lb.) in the weighted average price for all grades of carcass beef, indicating that the general price level for all beef was not affected by the grade change.

Another study (Campion, et. al., 1976) compared the consumer acceptability of beef under old and new grades. These researchers found no meaningful or practical difference between acceptability of Choice beef to a taste panel under old and new standards. They also found the Good grade to be more nearly as acceptable as Choice under new standards while it was more nearly comparable to Standard under the old system. These researchers thus concluded that the new Good grade was indeed more restrictive and nearer Choice in acceptability.

## Subjective Comments and Observations

Trade people, researchers, [1] and government workers, were informally queried and comments from trade publications were noted to form a picture of industry observations on the effects of the grade change. Although not unanimous, the following ideas were mentioned by many contributors.

*Very few retailers reported any change in consumer acceptance of Choice beef. Those reporting complaints seem to be concentrated in the far West.

*Yield grade specifications are more widely and consistently used by the trade. Discounts for 4's exceed premiums for 2's in absolute size.

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[1] The author expresses special thanks to Dr. V. James Rhodes and Mr. Don Harrington of the University of Missouri for contributions from their research in progress.

Several reasons are advanced for this, including: 2's shrink more than 3's and 4's; the common fat trim specifications used by the trade reduce the cutability advantages for 2's compared to the cutability losses of 4's; orders often are for "yield grade 3 or better" and the buyers may accept 2's but not pay a premium for 2's; and most 2's tend to be closer to 3 (e.g. 2.8 or 2.9) than most 4's. On live cattle the dressing percentage of 2's is generally less than 3's.

*Attempts by retailers to merchandise the new Good grade beef have been largely unsuccessful. There appears to have been a small increase in the number of retailers handling two beef lines--either Prime and Choice, or Choice and a house brand.

*Greatest dissatisfaction to the grade change seems to come from purveyors whose concern is that a reduction in marbling requirements for Choice implies reduced quality.

*The increased quantity of Prime seems generally to be sold in its traditional restaurant market. Premiums for Prime carcasses are small or nonexistent and several retailers will reject a Prime-3 in a Choice-3 order.

*Many firms whose primary beef product was ungraded beef which would have graded Good under the old standards have found it necessary to handle Choice or a different grade equivalent, since many of these carcasses now grade Choice.

*Merchandising alternatives for carcass and primal sellers are reduced since specialty buyers will no longer accept 4's and 5's with no discount.

*"Holstein type" Choice-3 carcasses are discounted from Choice-3 beef type carcasses in the general trade. This is defended by assertions that the dairy types have more forequarter and less hindquarter; that they tend to have more bone; and that they have an identifiably different shape of the rib-eye muscle. Some believe that neither the old conformation factor nor yield grade adequately account for these characteristic.

*Most carcasses qualifying for Choice are being grade marked, even if they yield grade 4, because the trade will tend to assume a high yield grade for ungraded carcasses.

*Cattle feeders are selling fewer "over fat" cattle. This results from some combination of feed and cattle price levels, the ability of cattle to grade Choice with less marbling, and the wider premiums and discounts associated with yield grade. Ten to twenty fewer feeding days are widely quoted as attributable to the grade change.

Overall, the grade change appears to have improved pricing accuracy and grade homogeneity with an acceptable level of disruption and side effects to the industry. The majority of those queried view the change as net positive and no active movement to further modify grades was identified. Some individuals whose business practices and/or profits were negatively affected by the change are understandably displeased with it. However, those individuals who were displeased with the change seemed more inclined to want to leave them alone and avoid additional changes.

## REFERENCES

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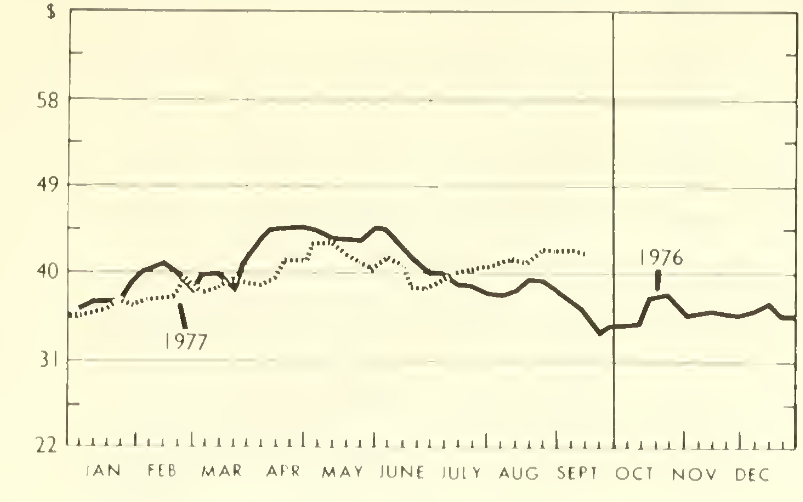
Campion, D.R., J.D. Crouse, and M.E. Dikeman, "A Comparison of Two USDA Carcass Beef Quality Standards." Journal of Animal Science, Vol. 43, Sept. 1976, pp. 557-65.

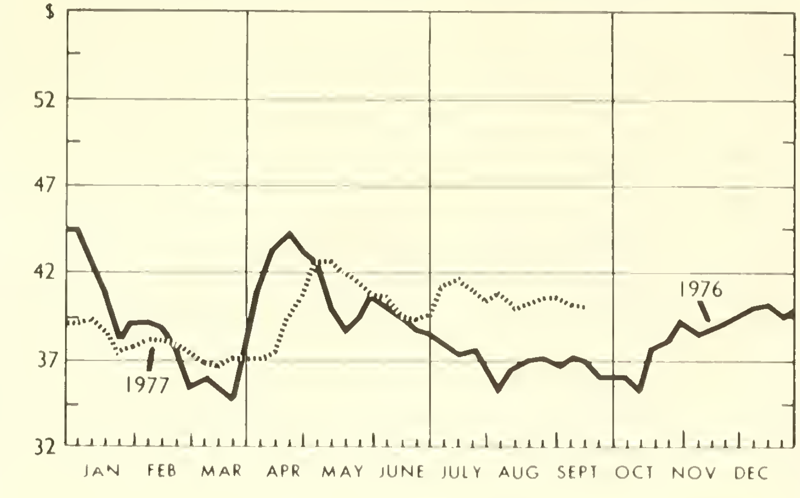
Nelson, Kenneth E., Economic Effects of the 1976 Beef Grade Change. USDA, ERS, Technical Bulletin 1570, June 1977.

AVE. PRICE CHOICE FEEDER STEERS 600—700# — KANSAS CITY



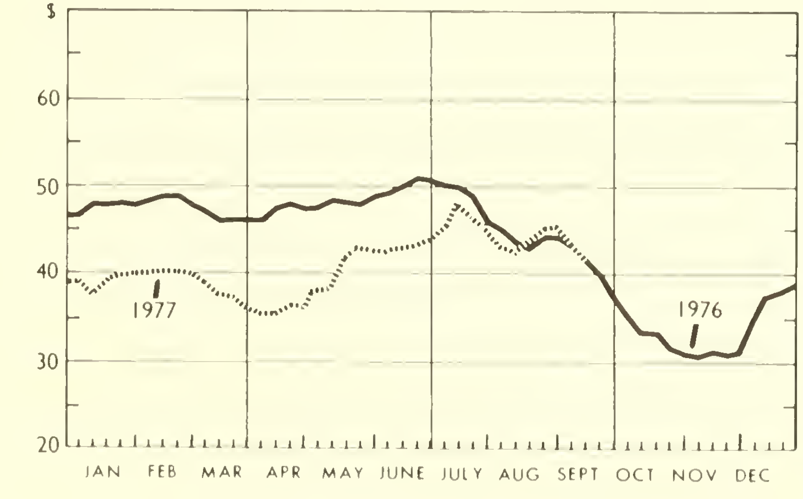
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LIVESTOCK DIVISION AMS

AVE. PRICE CHOICE SLAUGHTER STEERS-OMAHA 1100—1300#



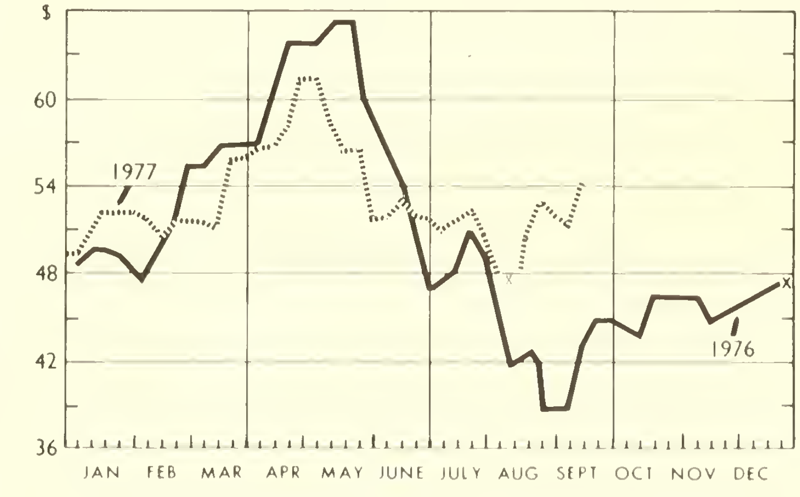
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LIVESTOCK DIVISION AMS

AVERAGE PRICE BARROWS & GILTS*



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE *SEVEN MARKETS COMBINED LIVESTOCK DIVISION AMS

AVE. PRICE CHOICE SLAUGHTER LAMBS-SAN ANGELO



SPRING LAMBS QUOTED MARCH TO OCTOBER, WOOLED LAMBS OCTOBER TO MARCH

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE X NO SALES CONFIRMED LIVESTOCK DIVISION AMS

Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat

| Item | 1976 | | 1977 | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. |
| | *Dollars per 100 pounds* | | | | | | | | | |
| SLAUGHTER STEERS: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Omaha: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Choice, 900-1100 lb. | 39.15 | 39.96 | 38.38 | 37.98 | 37.28 | 40.08 | 41.98 | 40.24 | 40.94 | 40.11 |
| Good, 900-1100 lb. | 35.12 | 36.11 | 34.81 | 34.75 | 34.34 | 36.84 | 38.25 | 36.77 | 37.02 | 36.24 |
| California, Choice 900-1100 lb. | 40.62 | 41.40 | 38.56 | 39.44 | 40.15 | 42.56 | 43.50 | 42.40 | 42.44 | 40.53 |
| Colorado, Choice 900-1100 lb. | 39.26 | 39.98 | 37.55 | 37.76 | 37.40 | 40.67 | 43.00 | 40.56 | 40.94 | 39.77 |
| Texas, Choice 900-1100 lb. | 40.10 | 41.10 | 38.40 | 38.36 | 37.91 | 41.17 | 43.35 | 40.87 | 41.25 | 40.14 |
| COWS: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Omaha: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Commercial | 21.34 | 22.39 | 23.79 | 24.71 | 27.64 | 28.76 | 27.40 | 26.47 | 25.97 | 25.97 |
| Utility | 20.59 | 21.60 | 22.95 | 23.88 | 26.67 | 27.63 | 26.57 | 25.64 | 25.23 | 25.38 |
| Cutter | 19.00 | 20.18 | 21.55 | 22.54 | 25.03 | 25.98 | 24.66 | 23.99 | 23.85 | 23.92 |
| Canner | 16.96 | 18.88 | 19.54 | 20.59 | 22.86 | 24.04 | 22.88 | 22.46 | 22.15 | 22.12 |
| VEALERS: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Choice, S. St. Paul | 44.90 | 49.58 | 53.12 | 54.88 | 56.26 | 52.88 | 54.92 | 51.60 | 46.95 | 46.20 |
| FEEDER STEERS: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kansas City: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Choice, 400-500 lb. | 38.46 | 38.22 | 37.99 | 41.69 | 44.36 | 45.72 | 45.20 | 42.46 | 43.14 | 45.27 |
| Choice, 600-700 lb. | 36.26 | 36.23 | 36.49 | 37.86 | 38.95 | 41.81 | 41.72 | 39.90 | 40.64 | 41.99 |
| Good, 600-700 lb. | 30.65 | 30.47 | 31.41 | 32.88 | 35.92 | 38.30 | 38.95 | 37.82 | 38.48 | 38.30 |
| All weights and grades | 35.07 | 35.19 | 34.87 | 36.54 | 37.81 | 41.33 | 39.88 | 38.22 | 38.90 | 39.61 |
| Amarillo: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Choice, 600-700 lb. | 34.69 | 35.87 | 36.47 | 38.00 | 38.60 | 41.81 | 40.66 | 38.39 | 38.71 | 38.75 |
| Good, 600-700 lb. | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Georgia Auctions: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Choice, 600-700 lb. | 30.69 | 32.42 | 31.75 | 34.50 | 35.95 | 37.81 | 35.81 | 34.10 | 35.00 | 36.60 |
| Good, 400-500 lb. | 28.62 | 30.17 | 30.44 | 33.94 | 34.90 | 37.25 | 35.00 | 33.15 | 33.62 | 35.05 |
| SLAUGHTER HOGS: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Barrows and Gilts: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Omaha: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nos. 1 & 2, 200-220 lb. | 33.00 | 39.17 | 40.52 | 41.06 | 38.08 | 37.66 | 42.62 | 45.07 | 46.62 | 44.81 |
| Nos. 1 & 2, 220-240 lb. | 32.79 | 39.03 | 40.45 | 41.08 | 38.11 | 37.64 | 42.60 | 44.98 | 46.62 | 44.81 |
| All weights | 31.19 | 37.47 | 39.05 | 40.04 | 37.45 | 36.74 | 41.44 | 43.41 | 45.27 | 43.82 |
| Sioux City | 31.96 | 38.28 | 39.65 | 40.40 | 37.61 | 37.20 | 41.94 | 43.89 | 45.76 | 44.34 |
| 7 markets[1] | 32.05 | 38.05 | 39.52 | 40.18 | 37.53 | 36.97 | 41.79 | 43.86 | 45.76 | 44.38 |
| Sows: | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 markets[1] | 23.64 | 28.30 | 33.58 | 35.84 | 34.26 | 34.09 | 36.99 | 37.84 | 38.63 | 38.00 |
| FEEDER PIGS: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nos. 1 & 2, So. Mo., 40-50 lb. (per hd.) | 21.17 | 24.04 | 23.84 | 33.24 | 38.58 | 41.49 | 40.91 | 35.18 | 36.90 | 39.84 |
| SLAUGHTER LAMBS: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lambs, Choice, San Angelo | 45.50 | 47.69 | 52.00 | 51.25 | 55.70 | 59.62 | 55.56 | 52.10 | 50.42 | 51.46 |
| Lambs, Choice, So. St. Paul | 42.27 | 46.32 | 51.61 | 52.40 | 50.83 | 55.05 | 57.00 | 52.57 | 50.05 | 48.67 |
| Ewes, Good, San Angelo | — | 16.88 | 20.75 | 19.25 | 22.15 | 18.19 | 16.62 | 16.00 | 14.58 | 16.75 |
| Ewes, Good, So. St. Paul | 9.45 | 10.54 | 15.90 | 16.15 | 15.00 | 11.40 | 11.00 | 11.16 | 11.00 | 12.80 |
| FEEDER LAMBS: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Choice, San Angelo | 49.67 | 51.19 | 53.56 | 54.81 | 56.25 | 59.19 | 51.38 | 46.15 | 47.33 | 50.75 |
| Choice, So. St. Paul | 43.56 | 51.91 | 57.28 | 55.45 | 51.30 | 48.00 | 47.88 | 47.44 | 47.15 | 48.58 |
| FARM PRICES: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beef cattle: | 31.20 | 32.40 | 32.30 | 33.10 | 33.80 | 34.90 | 36.10 | 34.10 | 34.90 | 34.70 |
| Calves | 32.10 | 32.80 | 33.70 | 35.60 | 36.60 | 38.10 | 38.50 | 36.00 | 36.60 | 37.10 |
| Hogs | 31.20 | 36.30 | 38.00 | 39.30 | 37.10 | 36.00 | 40.70 | 41.90 | 44.90 | 42.80 |
| Sheep | 11.50 | 13.00 | 13.30 | 13.40 | 15.00 | 14.30 | 13.10 | 12.00 | 12.20 | 12.30 |
| Lambs | 41.90 | 44.70 | 48.50 | 49.50 | 49.20 | 51.00 | 55.50 | 51.20 | 50.70 | 49.00 |
| MEAT PRICES: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wholesale: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Midwest Markets:[2] | | | | | | | | | | |
| Steer beef, Choice, 600-700 lb. | 60.85 | 62.52 | 60.04 | 58.92 | 57.12 | 60.54 | 64.44 | 62.62 | 63.65 | 62.49 |
| Heifer beef, Choice, 500-600 lb. | 59.17 | 60.72 | 58.60 | 57.66 | 56.05 | 58.63 | 63.02 | 61.84 | 62.14 | 60.78 |
| Cow beef, Canner and Cutter | 43.84 | 47.60 | 49.66 | 51.09 | 54.94 | 56.42 | 53.31 | 52.42 | 51.69 | 51.12 |
| Pork loins, 8-14 lb. | 66.83 | 73.37 | 85.32 | 80.66 | 72.36 | 73.42 | 83.14 | 87.94 | 91.66 | 85.21 |
| Pork bellies, 12-14 lb. | 42.58 | 45.71 | 51.62 | 52.08 | 48.91 | 55.23 | 57.10 | 58.51 | 63.55 | 63.96 |
| Hams, skinned, 14-17 lb. | 80.69 | 84.56 | 69.15 | 72.82 | 75.13 | 63.70 | 70.39 | 72.10 | 72.58 | 75.51 |
| East Coast: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Steer beef, Choice 600-700 lb. | 64.46 | 66.25 | 63.66 | 62.97 | 60.46 | 64.02 | 67.50 | 66.00 | 66.82 | 66.10 |
| Lamb, Choice and Prime, 35-45 lb. | 93.25 | 97.35 | 105.76 | 105.04 | 110.60 | 114.00 | 112.83 | 106.38 | 104.72 | 101.82 |
| Lamb, Choice and Prime, 55-65 lb. | 86.12 | 90.55 | 96.29 | 95.44 | 92.15 | 110.75 | 109.62 | 105.98 | 103.84 | 101.67 |
| West Coast: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Steer Beef, Choice, 600-700 lb. | 65.56 | 67.72 | 64.45 | 63.22 | 63.29 | 66.26 | 68.87 | 68.29 | 68.98 | 66.91 |
| Retail: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beef, Choice | 135.7 | 138.9 | 137.5 | 134.6 | 133.2 | 134.0 | 138.4 | 137.4 | 138.3 | |
| Veal | 170.1 | 169.8 | 176.7 | 179.3 | 177.0 | 178.6 | 178.5 | 179.7 | 180.0 | |
| Pork | 117.5 | 117.2 | 119.6 | 121.1 | 121.0 | 118.9 | 120.9 | 125.7 | 132.1 | |
| Lamb | 183.6 | 182.6 | 181.4 | 182.9 | 181.3 | 178.5 | 183.6 | 188.7 | 192.8 | |
| Price Indexes (BLS, 1967=100) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wholesale meat | 159.0 | 156.1 | 165.4 | 163.4 | 160.5 | 159.6 | 172.1 | 171.7 | 177.6 | 172.8 |
| Retail meat | 169.7 | 167.4 | 169.9 | 171.3 | 170.8 | 170.1 | 171.3 | 174.4 | 175.8 | |
| Beef and veal | 159.4 | 160.7 | 162.1 | 161.5 | 160.7 | 161.2 | 162.8 | 164.8 | 164.2 | |
| Pork | 182.4 | 174.7 | 180.1 | 185.1 | 184.1 | 181.7 | 182.0 | 187.0 | 192.0 | |
| Other meats | 174.5 | 171.8 | 172.6 | 173.6 | 174.5 | 173.7 | 175.1 | 178.0 | 179.0 | |
| LIVESTOCK-FEED RATIOS, OMAHA[3] | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beef steer-corn | 18.0 | 17.4 | 16.1 | 16.0 | 15.9 | 17.5 | 19.0 | 19.2 | 21.5 | 24.2 |
| Hog-corn | 14.4 | 16.4 | 16.4 | 16.8 | 15.9 | 16.0 | 18.8 | 20.7 | 23.8 | 26.4 |

[1] St. Louis N.S.Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, S. St. Paul, and Indianapolis. [2] Prior to Oct., 1975, Chicago Market. [3] Bushels of No. 2 Yellow Corn equivalent in value of 100 pounds liveweight.

Selected marketings, slaughter and stock statistics for meat animals and meat

| Item | Unit | 1976 | | | | 1977 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan.[4] | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July |
| FEDERALLY INSPECTED: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Slaughter: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cattle | 1,000 head | 3,435 | 3,336 | 3,154 | 3,205 | 3,272 | 3,041 | 3,330 | 3,033 | 3,054 | 3,374 | 3,085 |
| Steers | 1,000 head | 1,520 | 1,434 | 1,296 | 1,361 | 1,418 | 1,374 | 1,575 | 1,485 | 1,488 | 1,683 | 1,481 |
| Heifers | 1,000 head | 964 | 965 | 880 | 884 | 945 | 859 | 943 | 852 | 842 | 890 | 839 |
| Cows | 1,000 head | 869 | 863 | 904 | 893 | 849 | 745 | 743 | 629 | 654 | 726 | 695 |
| Bulls and stags | 1,000 head | 82 | 74 | 74 | 67 | 61 | 63 | 69 | 67 | 70 | 75 | 71 |
| Calves | 1,000 head | 409 | 394 | 388 | 420 | 408 | 380 | 457 | 389 | 353 | 368 | 352 |
| Sheep and lambs | 1,000 head | 622 | 556 | 517 | 534 | 498 | 461 | 579 | 539 | 474 | 550 | 468 |
| Hogs | 1,000 head | 6,361 | 6,929 | 7,110 | 6,525 | 5,840 | 5,825 | 7,236 | 6,400 | 5,877 | 5,695 | 4,908 |
| Percentage sows | Percent | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Average liveweight per head | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cattle | Pounds | 1,029 | 1,032 | 1,036 | 1,037 | 1,045 | 1,043 | 1,048 | 1,042 | 1,037 | 1,032 | 1,023 |
| Calves | Pounds | 222 | 230 | 227 | 237 | 211 | 210 | 195 | 195 | 209 | 214 | 207 |
| Sheep and lambs | Pounds | 108 | 111 | 112 | 112 | 112 | 114 | 114 | 112 | 106 | 104 | 104 |
| Hogs | Pounds | 236 | 238 | 243 | 239 | 234 | 233 | 234 | 236 | 239 | 241 | 239 |
| Average dressed weight | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beef | Pounds | 614 | 611 | 610 | 611 | 607 | 608 | 614 | 614 | 612 | 609 | 602 |
| Veal | Pounds | 128 | 131 | 130 | 138 | 123 | 125 | 116 | 114 | 123 | 126 | 123 |
| Lamb and mutton | Pounds | 54 | 55 | 56 | 56 | 57 | 57 | 58 | 56 | 52 | 51 | 51 |
| Pork | Pounds | 164 | 165 | 169 | 167 | 168 | 167 | 167 | 169 | 171 | 173 | 171 |
| Production: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beef | Mil. lb. | 2,104 | 2,031 | 1,918 | 1,951 | 1,975 | 1,841 | 2,034 | 1,855 | 1,859 | 2,047 | 1,850 |
| Veal | Mil. lb. | 52 | 51 | 50 | 57 | 50 | 46 | 52 | 43 | 42 | 45 | 42 |
| Lamb and mutton | Mil. lb. | 33 | 31 | 29 | 30 | 28 | 26 | 33 | 30 | 24 | 28 | 24 |
| Pork | Mil. lb. | 1,042 | 1,143 | 1,199 | 1,089 | 976 | 968 | 1,081 | 1,077 | 1,001 | 979 | 834 |
| COMMERCIAL: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Slaughter:[1] | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cattle | 1,000 head | 3,749 | 3,660 | 3,492 | 3,510 | 3,546 | 3,299 | 3,616 | 3,272 | 3,299 | 3,627 | 3,307 |
| Calves | 1,000 head | 495 | 480 | 466 | 490 | 480 | 443 | 519 | 445 | 419 | 442 | 421 |
| Sheep and lambs | 1,000 head | 646 | 574 | 534 | 551 | 513 | 474 | 595 | 562 | 492 | 570 | 486 |
| Hogs | 1,000 head | 6,637 | 7,211 | 7,458 | 6,880 | 6,127 | 6,096 | 7,545 | 6,658 | 6,134 | 5,957 | 5,120 |
| Production: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beef | Mil. lb. | 2,274 | 2,203 | 2,096 | 2,113 | 2,116 | 1,981 | 2,188 | 1,990 | 1,991 | 2,181 | 1,969 |
| Veal | Mil. lb. | 75 | 75 | 72 | 77 | 69 | 63 | 71 | 59 | 61 | 66 | 62 |
| Lamb and mutton | Mil. lb. | 34 | 31 | 30 | 31 | 29 | 27 | 34 | 31 | 26 | 29 | 25 |
| Pork | Mil. lb. | 1,084 | 1,188 | 1,255 | 1,147 | 1,024 | 1,013 | 1,256 | 1,120 | 1,044 | 1,022 | 869 |
| COLD STORAGE STOCKS FIRST OF MONTH:[2] | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beef | Mil. lb. | 373 | 394 | 414 | 443 | 454 | 474 | 474 | 493 | 471 | 445 | 413 |
| Veal | Mil. lb. | 8 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 13 | 12 | 12 |
| Lamb and mutton | Mil. lb. | 15 | 17 | 16 | 17 | 15 | 14 | 14 | 12 | 13 | 15 | 14 |
| Pork | Mil. lb. | 170 | 189 | 216 | 235 | 212 | 197 | 200 | 223 | 261 | 268 | 229 |
| Total meat and meat products[3] | Mil. lb. | 620 | 663 | 711 | 755 | 733 | 745 | 755 | 795 | 818 | 798 | 726 |
| FOREIGN TRADE: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Imports: (carcass weight) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beef and veal | Mil. lb. | 203 | 190 | 141 | 88 | 143 | 172 | 150 | 157 | 157 | 141 | 162 |
| Pork | Mil. lb. | 29 | 33 | 34 | 34 | 35 | 30 | 39 | 38 | 35 | 38 | 35 |
| Lamb and mutton | Mil. lb. | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| Exports: (carcass weight) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beef and veal | Mil. lb. | 7.77 | 8.55 | 7.23 | 6.86 | 6.29 | 7.54 | 8.55 | 6.96 | 7.84 | 9.19 | 9.27 |
| Pork | Mil. lb. | 25.64 | 32.54 | 26.07 | 21.37 | 18.23 | 21.03 | 27.56 | 21.58 | 25.54 | 22.79 | 20.69 |
| Lamb and mutton | Mil. lb. | .56 | .55 | .40 | .35 | .34 | .33 | .73 | .33 | .51 | .49 | .34 |
| Live animal imports: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cattle | Number | 29,670 | 34,855 | 138,035 | 259,316 | 106,120 | 64,091 | 77,295 | 84,694 | 109,891 | 82,838 | 36,451 |
| Hogs | Number | 4,277 | 2,766 | 2,730 | 2,884 | 2,900 | 2,606 | 5,043 | 2,498 | 2,772 | 3,881 | 5,368 |
| Sheep and lambs | Number | 677 | 1,569 | 1,129 | 473 | 0 | 0 | 118 | 59 | 22 | 23 | 47 |
| Live animal exports: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cattle | Number | 21,378 | 16,966 | 12,401 | 7,417 | 6,080 | 4,829 | 5,951 | 6,874 | 7,166 | 8,750 | 8,159 |
| Hogs | Number | 1,072 | 532 | 1,715 | 1,181 | 626 | 567 | 1,004 | 1,045 | 312 | 1,768 | 289 |
| Sheep and lambs | Number | 19,538 | 16,899 | 16,567 | 20,254 | 6,900 | 15,779 | 20,894 | 23,870 | 17,945 | 11,759 | 8,798 |

[1] Federally inspected and other commercial. [2] Beginning Jan. 1977 excludes beef and pork stocks in cooler. [3] Includes stocks of canned meats in cooler in addition to the meats listed. [4] Slaughter and production data revised.

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